(c) Under the wet-leased agreement, M/s. Airclub International is required to provide aircraft, crew including cabin crew, maintenance and insurance. Air India has to bear the cost of all other items including fuel.

In case of IL-62 M, Aeroflot is required to provide aircraft, flight crew and minimum cabin crew complement, fuel, handling and landing charges etc. Air India is required to bear the cost of aircraft insurance, passenger and baggage legal liability, booking agency commission etc.

(d) Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period. Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November, 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Proposals for acquisition of one more B747-400 aircraft and three A310-300 aircraft are under consideration. In addition, Air India will also purchase a number of MCLR aircraft.

Providing Uplinking Facilities to earn more Foreign Exchange

*152. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether giving uplinking facilities on Indian soil to satellite television channels will help earn more foreign exchange and also increase employment potential;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an independent broadcasting authority for this purpose;

(c) the fee proposed to be levied on private channels for uplinking from Indian soil; and

(d) measures taken to popularise the Doordarshan International Channels?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The issue of permitting uplinking facilities from Indian soil is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This and other related issues including setting up of autonomous broadcasting authority would be taken care of by the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) Various measures such as increasing the telecast time, showing programmes/films including in regional languages for benefit of NRI's live telecasting of events of national importance, publicising channel programmes and schedules etc. have been taken to increase the popularity of Doordarshan international. Further, our missions abroad have been asked to give wide publicity to the telecast schedules and also give no-objection certificates to cable operators willing to downlink DD international channel for further distribution.

Twisting of Rules by Doordarshan for Rating Sponsored Programmes to favour Private Producers

*153. SHRI O.S. MANIAN:
SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has twisted rules for rating its sponsored programmes to favour certain private producers;

(b) if so, what is the loss incurred by Government on this account; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the guilty officials of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Handing over the task of Organising International Film Festivals to the Film Industry

*154. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Film Festival of India was held at Tiruvananthapuram in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the profit earned therefrom;

(c) the shortcomings noticed during the festival including the selection of films;